Appointment of Chief Controller of Explosives

3684. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no regular Chief Controller of Explosives has been appointed for the last fifteen years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) in what manner Government would justify the absence of a regular CCE particularly at a time when explosive laws need to be enforced strictly; and

(d) by when a regular CCE is going to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Although the process of appointment of regular Chief Controller of Explosives was initiated as per the existing recruitment rules, no regular Chief Controller of Explosives could be appointed due to factors including non-availability of suitable candidate, further amendment of recruitment rules and pending litigation.

(c) Even though the post could not be filled on regular basis, Chief Controller of Explosives has been appointed on *ad hoc* basis to ensure implementation of the statutes and rules concerned.

(d) Regular appointment of Chief Controller of Explosives will depend upon the disposal of special leave petition pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.